

# **VSH Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 15, 2009, 1:30 pm

Nursing Classroom

**Type of meeting:** Oversight

**Facilitator:** Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health

**Note taker:** Denise McCarty

**Steering Committee Members:** Paul Dupre, Patrick Flood, (Designee for Secretary Robert Hofmann); Dr. William McMains; Ann Moore, Terry Rowe, VSH Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Simpatico, Beth Tanzman (Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health); VSH Medical Director, Dr. Jay Batra, VSH Associate Medical Director

**Attendees:** Jessica Oski, DMH Legal Department; Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Chief, Joan Senecal, Commissioner of DAIL, Anne Jerman, Patrick Kinner, Adena Weidman, Elliot Benay, Kristin Chandler, JoEllen Swaine, Sarah Merrill, Scott Perry, David Mitchell, Michael Sabourin

## **Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The March meeting minutes were reviewed by the Steering Committee. Changes were made to the Commissioner's Report section to reflect that "we received proposed appropriations for the capital budget".

Patrick Flood motioned to accept the minutes as revised, Beth Tanzman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Discussed: Executive Director's Report (with Terry Rowe)**

Terry wanted to recognize the work that Tommie Murray has done through all the hospital surveys, she is optimistic and passionate about the work she does at VSH. The Reward and Recognition Committee awarded her a gift certificate. TR asked if members of leadership would like to say anything about the work that Tommie has done. All were appreciative, discussion followed.

IT – Andy Lowe and Margaret Ciechonovich are working diligently on our projects. Anne Ireland will be making a presentation tomorrow on the Epic system which is Fletcher Allen's medical electronic health record. The leadership committee is welcome to attend the presentation. VSH remains having a very high census with very acute patients. We are still down one physician while Jay Batra is transitioning to be the full-time medical director.

It is Volunteer Appreciation Week next week and the Waterbury Record will be interviewing some of the VSH volunteers to write an article for the paper.

(End of Executive Director's Report)

**Discussed: Quality Assurance Department (with Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Chief)**

Tommie Murray gave an overview of the preliminary CMS findings from the CMS survey that was conducted last week. Discussion followed.

(End of Quality Assurance Report)

**Discussed: Commissioner's Report (with Michael Hartman, Commissioner)**

Michael gave an update of the proposed mandatory over time bill that is currently being reviewed at the legislature. There has been an increase in the levels of patients that need constant observation which require more overtime of VSH staff. The bill being proposed would say that Vermont State employees could not work mandatory over time. This would lead to increased costs to the hospital if the bill passes. Discussion followed. Beth reminded Terry that the Steering Committee would like a presentation about over time usage at VSH from Anne Jerman at a future meeting.

Michael gave an update on the status of legislative approval of the 15 bed secure residential project.

(End of Report)

**Policies with Jessica Oski**

**Emergency Involuntary Procedures Policy (EIP Policy)** – Jessica Oski reviewed details of the EIP policy and what the next steps are for this policy. There is no action requested for this policy today, we are just announcing that this policy is under review. The policy will go to the Policy Committee in May or June after being reviewed by Vermont Protection and Advocacy and Legal Aid.

Jessica mentioned that is a VSH goal to reduce seclusion and restraint this year by 10 percent. Ann Moore inquired about seclusion and restraint reports and would like to see some reports next month.

**Other Business –**

Patrick Flood asked if one new item of interest could be brought to the meeting every month for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:2 pm. The next meeting of the VSH Steering Committee will be May 20, 2009 at 1:30 pm in the VSH Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty  
Minute Taker